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Probleme Economice

## PLANTING OF FOREST BELTS IN RUMANIA

C. C. G orgescu

Much of the grain-bearing area of Rumania is located in steppe or foreststeppe regions; it totals about 3 million hectares and is to be found in the drought-plagued areas of Muntenia, Dobrudja, Oltenia, the Eanat, and Crisana. Certain agricultural regions, besides being subjected to drought, are also exposed, because of their slope, to the damaging runoff of water from melting snow and torrential rains, as in the rolling country in Eastern Moldavia, and Transylvania; these total approximately 4 million hectares. This means that it is necessary to plant forest belts for protection against drought or against soil erosion over an area of about 7 million hectares.

Up to 1944, approximately 1,000 hectares of such belts were planted. The purpthe of this, however, was not to protect the land but to mark property boundaries or to protect roads. The belts planted were not cared for, and most of them were in very poor condition. Small-scale experiments were begun in 1938, by the Institute of Forestry Research, at the Mangalia Experimental Station. Here the results obtained experimentally at the Agricultural Scientific Research Institute imeni V. V. Dokuchayev, located in the Kamennaya Steppe, were put to use. These belts are in an excellent state today and are the object of scientific research.

After 1944, extensive work on forest belts was undertaken. Experimentation was begun in 24 areas on various state farms, and especially at the ICAR (Agricultural Research Institute) stations at Jegalia-Gara, Marculesti, Valul Traian, Lovrin, Cenad, Campia Turzii, and in other areas.

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The RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) Academy gave its support by establishing a body of specialists, including agronomists, forestry experts, pisciculturists, hydrologists, meteorologists, and others, to study the application of the Dokuchayev-Kostachev-Williams rotation cycle in the RPR. This body began its work in the field at the ICAR experimental stations, where the first encouraging results have been achieved in large-scale crops. At the state farms and collective farms steps were taken toward exact organization of the land according to the nature of its future use in agricultural fields, forests, vineyards, orchards, hay fields, and grazing lands. Larger-scale projects for applying the cycle have been prepared on the land adjacent to the Danube-Black Sea Canal. Approximately 14 percent of this land was allotted for forests. Preliminary work was done in 1949 and 1950, with the establishment of seedling centers over an area of about 250 hectures, the acquisition of large quantities of seed, and the formation of units of technicians. The Ministry of Forest Culture, which is executing these projects, has supplied the labor units with machinery of the latest types imported from the USSR. This includes powerful tractors, colter plows, harrows, cultivators, drills, and other equipment. This area has become the center for the training of specialists in forest reclamation. A special intermediate school has been set up at Murfatlar,

State farms and collective farms have begun the request for the establishment of forest belts on their land. The Ministry of Forest culture is concerning itself with the afforestation plan and is making every effort to apply it. It is noteworthy that in many places where such projects were completed the working peasantry realized the value of the belts and proceeded to plant them on collective farms, as in the case of the collective farm at Targu-Frumos ir Issi Regiume.

According to over-all calculations, the protective forest planting would occupy approximately 500,000 hectares of the total area which is to be reclaimed. The Ministry of Forest Culture will be able to proceed with the plan at a normal rate in 1953 and 1954.

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